

## REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, and 20 being independent.

Claims 1-22 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

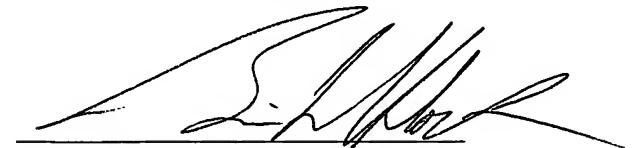
Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants having amended those claims in view of the Examiner's comments, and the objections are believed to have been overcome. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 12-24 are allowed and that certain other claims would be allowable if amended to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph rejection. Applicants submit that the Section 112 rejection has been overcome. Further, although additional amendments have been made to the claims, Applicants submit that those amendments do not affect the allowability of the claims. Therefore, favorable consideration and allowance of the amended claims are requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and an early Notice of Allowance are sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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